

## Patricia Hearst back to prison

WASHINGTON, April 24 (R). — The Supreme Court decided today that newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst must go back to jail for her part in a 1974 bank robbery. It refused to consider her appeal against a sentence of seven years for joining in the robbery with the radical group which kidnapped her two months earlier. The case of Miss Hearst, 24, partly because the main character was the daughter of a rich and influential man and partly because of its bizarre twists, was front page news around the world. It began early in 1974 when Miss Hearst was dragged screaming from her San Francisco apartment. The kidnappers identified themselves as members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, a revolutionary group.

Volume 3, Number 737

## Red Brigades name 13 they want freed in exchange for Moro

ROME, April 24 (R). — The Red Brigades today offered to exchange kidnapped Premier Aldo Moro for 13 of their jail-comrades and threatened to kill him if their proposal was turned down. But a leading Christian Democrat, Deputy Party Secretary Giovanni Galloni, told reporters the party could not consider a prisoner exchange, his hypothesis has already been considered and rejected," said.

The urban guerrillas' statement, issued simultaneously in Rome, Milan and Turin, revealed for the first time their exact terms for the release of the Christian Democratic Party president, whom they kidnapped on March 16. It also indicated that they did not carry out a threat their ultimatum of last Thursday to kill Mr. Moro if they did not receive a positive reply on a prisoner exchange by 1000 GMT last Saturday. The new statement did not fix a deadline for a reply. The Red Brigades' statement, picked up after telephone, is regarded as authentic.

## View letter from Moro pleads for negotiations

ROME, April 24 (R). — Former Prime Minister Aldo Moro today pleaded with the Italian government to agree quickly to negotiate his release, saying it was "a question of seconds" or minutes." The text of the seven-page handwritten letter from the 61-year-old statesman was released shortly after his urban guerrilla kidnappers revealed for the first time their exact terms for his release and threatened to kill him unless the government agreed to free 13 "Communist prisoners".

In his letter, Mr. Moro bitterly attacked the government for not agreeing to a prisoner exchange and said he wanted representatives of the Italian state at his funeral. The handwriting of the letter, the sixth Mr. Moro has written since he was abducted on March 16, was shaky and weak. The letter was picked by the Rome evening newspaper *Vita* after a call from the Red Brigades.

## Israeli academics join Peace Now group, urge Begin to be flexible

TEL AVIV, April 24 (R). Over 350 Israeli university professors and lecturers have called on Prime Minister Menachem Begin to change his policies on the West Bank so as not to miss an opportunity for peace in the Middle East.

The academics told reporters they had signed a manifesto supporting the Peace Now movement organised last month by 60 army reserve officers who wrote a letter to Mr. Begin criticising his policies. The movement held a mass rally two weeks ago attended by over 30,000 people.

The academics said they supported the Peace Now call not to forego an opportunity moment for peace. They said the government's policy did not lead to compromise and peace but caused Israel to lose friends and increased its isolation in the world, thereby weakening the country's security and increasing the dangers of war.

Representatives of the original 300 officers met Mr. Begin in Friday and said afterwards they found him as rigid as ever in his opposition to withdrawal from the West Bank.

Begin to Washington next week

Meanwhile, Mr. Begin's office announced yesterday that his Israeli prime minister will meet President Carter during a visit to the United States next week to discuss the stalled Middle East peace negotiations.

Mr. Begin is due to be present in the United States to join celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the creation of Israel.

Officials said he would probably see Mr. Carter on May 1.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is due in Washington next Wednesday for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and has said that the Americans might then present new ideas to break the negotiating deadlock between Israel and Egypt.

By then Mr. Vance will have had a report from the roving U.S. envoy in the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, who saw President Anwar Sadat yesterday.

## JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جريدة تأثير يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

AMMAN, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1978 — JAMADI AWAL 17, 1398

## Cyprus rejects Turkish proposals

UNITED NATIONS, April 24 (AP). — Cyprus today formally rejected the Turkish proposals for a settlement of the war-torn Mediterranean island, the Cypriot Mission to the United Nations announced. The mission quoted George Ioannides, Minister to the president, as saying the latest proposals to end the ethnic conflict on Cyprus were an attempt to legalise the situation created by the Turkish invasion in 1974. Turkish forces now control 40 per cent of the island, which is populated by a Greek-speaking majority. Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos, the interlocutor, today reportedly handed the Cypriot document to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's Representative in Nicosia, Remy Gorge. It was to be forwarded to Dr. Waldheim.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

## King Hussein opens National Consultative Council with call for unified Arab line

AMMAN, April 24 (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein called today for a unified Arab strategy to liberate Israeli-occupied territories and win for Palestinians the right to self-determination. Inaugurating Jordan's National Consultative Council at the old Parliament building here, King Hussein said: "We humbly and sincerely call on the Arab nations to draw up a comprehensive strategy which will govern our common action, mobilise our enormous resources and bypass our transient differences, in order to be able to face the escalating imminent danger."

A common strategy was "the only way to protect ourselves and boost our dignity," he said.

Referring to his call last month for an Arab summit conference, King Hussein said he was working for Arab cohesion and solidarity which he considered the best means of regaining occupied territory and recovering Palestinian rights.

The absence of genuine planning was one of the reasons for the present lack of Arab unified action, he said.

King Hussein described the Consultative Council as the "best realistic formula at this stage for consultation, fruitful dialogue and sincere cooperation among the various state institutions."

The council was not a substitute for parliamentary life but a "formula on the road to maturity ... in our institutions and public life," he said.

Before His Majesty's address the President of the Council Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, made a brief welcoming speech thanking King Hussein for the formation of the council and pledging its full cooperation with the government.

The first session of the council was held following the King's address. During the session the 60 members were sworn in, two vice presidents were elected — Mr. Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mr. Kamal Al Dajani — and four committees were formed: The Legal Committee, composed of ten members; the Foreign Relations Committee, of nine members; the social and Educational Committee, of nine members; the West Bank Affairs Committee, of nine members.

Two other committees, for agriculture and for services, will be formed during the council's next session.

A special six-member committee was also formed during today's session to prepare the council's reply to the King's address. The six members will meet again tomorrow to approve the draft of the reply.

## King meets senators

In a meeting with the members of the Upper House of Parliament at the Royal Court here, yesterday, His Majesty King Hussein said: "We are approaching a stage when the chance of reaching an honourable and just peace is definitely

not ripe. The chance was lost because of Israeli intransigence and the weakness of a disunited Arab World."

The King went on to say that the Arab World has tremendous potential, both human and material, and the Arabs must take advantage of these factors to stand up to the dangers and to change the balance of power with the enemy.

It is our duty in this country to work for the unity of the Arabs and to dedicate all our resources for the defence of our nation, he added.

## Atherton carries Sadat message on M.E. peace moves to Carter

CAIRO, April 24 (R). — A personal message from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to President Carter on latest Middle East peace moves was handed to U.S. special envoy Alfred Atherton during talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Kamel today.

Mr. Atherton conferred with Mr. Sadat yesterday at the Red Sea Port of Hurghada and said they had reached a much clearer understanding of possible approaches to resuming peace talks.

The U.S. negotiator also said that during the meeting President Sadat offered to send Mr. Kamel to Washington after Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's visit to the

U.S. capital beginning tomorrow.

Mr. Atherton added he would be taking with him a personal message from Mr. Sadat to Mr. Carter. But the U.S. envoy, who returns home tomorrow, said he had brought no American proposals with him and Egypt had put forward no proposals.

Analysts said it was possible Mr. Atherton had discussed with Mr. Sadat various formulae for the wording of a declaration of principles which could be examined in talks between the U.S. administration and Mr. Dayan.

Egypt refuses to resume direct political talks with Israel, stalled since January, until there is agreement on a declaration of principles. It also insists this must include Israeli recognition of Palestinian rights and Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

In January President Carter, after talks with President Sadat in Aswan, Upper Egypt, said Palestinians should have the right to participate in the determination of their future.

U.S. officials have subsequently said they believed this kind of wording could be used in a declaration of principles, but Israel raised strong objections to this choice of words.

During his talks here Mr. Atherton has been at pains to stress America's full commitment to working for a settlement.

## Sadat: Peace is still possible

CAIRO, April 24 (R). — President Anwar Sadat said in an interview published yesterday he had not given up hope for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Speaking to the weekly magazine October he said that despite the slow movement of the peace process following his initiative in visiting Israel last November "we have not reached the point of despair or the point where we can say that we have done our best."

Mr. Sadat said Egypt had not also reached the point where there would be no alternative but to declare that Israel has not and will not change ... I am still optimistic," he added.

The president ruled out the possibility of any unilateral agreement between Egypt and Israel.

"There is no possibility for a unilateral solution, this is completely rejected before and after the initiative."

President Sadat said there were attempts to narrow the gap between the Egyptian and Israeli attitudes, "but nothing has changed."

He noted that both sides were standing firm on their respective attitudes concerning the Palestinian question.

President Sadat said Israel

considered that self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was enough, "while we consider it necessary that a Palestinian state is established."

Asked if Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has offered to visit Egypt, President Sadat said "it is not very important that Israeli officials come after the other, should come directly."

He said any meeting must have a goal and a meaning.

"Therefore, unless there are new ideas reached by the other side, such meetings, if they took place, are meaningless."

## U.N. briefs Lebanese leaders on next stage of Israeli withdrawal

BEIRUT, April 24 (Agencies). — Gen. Ennio Silvasvuo, coordinator of the United Nations forces in the Middle East, left here today after informing the Lebanese authorities of how the third stage of the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon would be carried out, officially sources said.

Foreign Minister Fuad Butros told reporters after meeting with Gen. Silvasvuo that the next withdrawal, on Sunday, would cover an area of 580 sq. kms. This would bring to 756 sq. kms. the amount of Lebanese territory evacuated by Israel since United Nations Security Council Resolution 425, calling on Israel to evacuate all of Lebanon, was voted on March 19.

Mr. Butros said that after Sunday's withdrawal, there would be 400 sq. kms. under Israeli control. He stressed that he had demanded "a rapid and unconditional withdrawal" by Israel from all Lebanese territory.

Gen. Silvasvuo also talked with Interior Minister Salim Salman. They discussed "the positions to be taken by the Lebanese forces of order in cooperation with the (U.N.) blue helmets in order to restore Lebanese sovereignty in the south of the country," an official source here said.

## U.N. soldier killed

Meanwhile, it was announced here that a French soldier

with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was killed in a landmine explosion at the Mediterranean port city of Tyre last night.

A U.N. spokesman said today that details of the accident and a complete identification will be released only after the victim's next of kin was informed.

This was UNIFIL's second casualty in south Lebanon. A Swedish soldier was killed in a similar accident last month.

Chad students stage Cairo protest

CAIRO, April 24 (R). — About 300 Chad students occupied their embassy building in Cairo today and planned to hold the ambassador and staff hostage for 24 hours in protest against the intervention of French and other foreign troops in Chad, a student delegation said. A spokesman at the private residence of Ambassador Homska Ouangomtchou, which is next to the embassy, confirmed by telephone that the ambassador was at the embassy and that it was occupied by students. He gave no other details.

## Saudi foreign minister: Unless Israel accepts peace we have to prepare for world catastrophe

TEHRAN, April 24 (R). — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal was quoted here today as saying: "We must either induce Israel to accept peace or prepare for world catastrophe."

He said this in an interview with Mr. Farhad Massoudi, President of Iran's Etelaat's Press Group who visited Saudi Arabia last week.

The interview was reported in the group's English-language daily newspaper Tehran Journal and French-language daily newspaper Journal de Teheran.

Asked about the fate of Egypt in President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative, Prince Saud Al Faisal replied: "At present the situation's that one party to the dispute wants peace, but the other does not.

"The solution is clear, we must either induce Israel to accept peace or prepare for a world catastrophe."

## Call for USSR involvement

In a separate development, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa was quoted in Kuwait today as calling for involve-

ment the Soviet Union in Middle East peace moves.

He told the daily newspaper Al Rai Al A'an that the United States was "a major power involved in solving the problem and the Soviet Union is also a major and interested state, whether we like it or not ... Arabs should deal with both powers from an (Arab) national viewpoint. (But) those who think that the American or Russian role could be excluded are completely mistaken," Sheikh Mohammad added.

He was confident that efforts to convene an Arab summit conference to heal the rift over Egypt's Middle East peace policies would succeed.

Call for USSR involvement

Solidarity meet ends

Meanwhile, in Khartoum an Arab solidarity committee meeting, under Sudanese Presi-

dent Jaafar Nimeiri, yesterday ended two days of talks aimed at reconciling differences over Middle East peace moves.

The Sudan news agency (SUNA) said the committee would meet again after President Nimeiri had made a tour of Cairo, Damascus and other Arab capitals. It gave no date for the previously-unannounced tour.

Before adjourning, foreign ministers of Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and North Yemen and the Arab League secretary general adopted a working paper presented by the Sudanese leader.

This called for resumption of diplomatic relations between Arab states that had broken them off, suspension of radio and press attacks and activation of existing Arab League reconciliation machinery.

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Tuesdays and Fridays : From Ras Al Khaimah to Amman, via Abu Dhabi :

Departure, Ras Al Khaimah 5:45 a.m.

Arrival, Amman 9:15 a.m.

# JORDAN TIMES

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# U. of J. Faculty of Agriculture gears research activities to Jordan's needs

This is the first in a two-part series on the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan. The Jordan Times will be running articles that explore different facets of agriculture in Jordan on a regular basis.

By Lee S. Tesdell  
 Special to the Jordan Times

In the development of agricultural potential in any country of the world, the educational and research aspects are essential for success. In this respect, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan has an important role to play in Jordan.

The Faculty of Agriculture is quite new having graduated its first B.Sc. students at the end of the 1976-1977 academic year. It has also been successful in attracting recent Ph.D. graduates from foreign universities to its own faculty.

There are now about 30 such Jordanians who have brought their expertise to the university. In our talk with the dean we covered the important points concerning the role of the Faculty of Agriculture in the national agricultural scheme.

Dr. Qasem, who has his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of Minnesota, stressed the necessary "great interdependence and interaction of various sectors in agriculture". The overall goal which Jordan has, is the increase of agricultural production.

It is known for instance, he said, that 50-60 per cent of Jordan's food is imported annually and the per unit of area production is very low in Jordan compared to its potential. "We believe -- and everyone knows this -- the potential in the Valley and rain fed areas has not been reached."

How the department started

Dean Qasem then outlined five areas in which he said work must be done. First, he said that infrastructural needs such as roads, water and electrification are important. Second, he said that reclamation, including irrigation and afforestation, is a priority; soil adaptability to crops must be taken into account, he said. Third, he pointed out, farmers' organisations had to "co-

ordinate and increase the ability of farmers to increase production". Fourth, he said that dissemination of technical knowledge which is already available, is important. Lastly, Dean Qasem said that credit organisations are important for farmers so that they can expand their operations.

It was with these notions in mind then, the dean said, that the Faculty of Agriculture was established. The faculty was to go out and interact with the agricultural sector rather than take a passive, purely educational role. It was decided that it "should not be traditional".

Three major tasks were set for the Faculty, first to prepare highly qualified graduates in agriculture; second, to do applied research, and third, to disseminate knowledge in a non-formal way, that is, to the farmers of Jordan.

The first three years of the faculty's existence have been devoted to establishing a proper "launching pad", said the dean. Thirteen laboratories, three training labs, several specialised rooms, an eight unit greenhouse, work spaces, a machinery unit, a poultry farm, a sheep unit and a 1,200 dunum Jordan Valley centre near Damya have all been established in this time. Our motto, said the dean, is to create the needed facilities.

In addition to the 30 or so Ph.D.'s into have come to work at the faculty, about 30



Tractor lays down fertiliser. The Agricultural Engineering Department at the University of Jordan is trying to adapt machinery to local conditions.



Greenhouse grown cucumbers. This method of growing vegetables is a rapidly expanding feature of agriculture in Jordan.



M.Sc. and B.Sc. holders have also become part of the team. Within the faculty, three major programmes are under way:

-- First, the B.Sc. degree programme in three majors: Animal Production and Protection; Plant Production, and Nutrition.

-- Second, the M.Sc. degree programme in Plant Protection, Plant Production, and Irrigation.

-- Third, 27 research projects which are aimed at major agricultural problems of Jordan.

Dr. Qasem said that expansion in all three of these areas is planned for the future.

Problems to be tackled

An important objective which has not yet been pursued in an organised way, said Dr. Qasem, is extension work with Jordan's farmers. Such activities as the publication of information for farmers in a popular form and on a technical level, and the holding of field days both on site and at the university, are potentially very valuable. "We have just finished a room in our building", said Dean Qasem, which is called the farmer's room and is for the use of joint farmer-staff meetings.

The object always in mind, he said, is to increase Jordan's agricultural production vertically not horizontally, that is to make agriculture in Jordan more efficient.

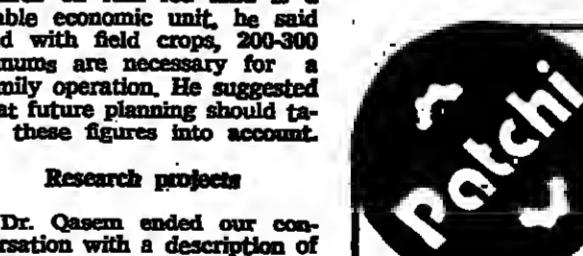
Dean Qasem went on to discuss other problems facing agricultural development in Jordan. What he called, "fragmentation of land ownership", impedes soil conservation, mechanised agriculture, and spraying programmes, the Dean said. Cooperatives are a way of counteracting this process by which farms become smaller and smaller due to inheritance traditions in Jordan.

However, he pointed out that "there are some traditional

mato industry in Jordan about JD 5 million a year. Six men are working on this, tackling it from all aspects", said the dean. The disease itself is spread in Lebanon, Syria, in the uplands of Jordan as well as the Valley. The disease is transmitted by white flies and has proved to be enhanced by grafting. Needless to say this disease is a major worry of Jordanian farmers.

A second problem which a man on the faculty who just received his Ph. D. from the University of California at Davis is working on is broom rape or "halook". This is a parasitic plant which attacks gourds and other plants. The seeds of "halook" have a 20 year life span, which is one of the obstacles to its eradication.

A third research project is on an insect which attacks olive trees. All of these problems are unique to this area. Dr. Qasem explained, and literature on the subject is almost non-existent. "The research facilities are therefore very important," concluded the dean.



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## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Under the heading "What Did We Repair for the Next Stage?" AL RAY said Monday that His Majesty King Hussein has given a full picture of the past stages through which the Arab cause has passed and emphasised that we are approaching a period where it seems absolutely clear that a chance for a just and honourable peace is not at hand. The main reason such an opportunity has been lost is Israel's intransigence and the Arab World's weakness due to its disunity, the newspaper adds.

The newspaper says that it was this conviction by the King, conveyed to the Upper House of Parliament yesterday, which lies behind His Majesty's call for convening an Arab summit and behind the plan of action which the King's emissaries have carried to Arab leaders.

Recalling that all Arab and international efforts have failed to produce a radical change in the Israeli position, the newspaper says that the Middle East is entering a new phase that might be the worst the Arabs have undergone during 30 years.

It calls on the Arabs to respond to King Hussein's call to mobilise their tremendous material and physical potential in order to be able to face the dangers and "change the balance of power with the Zionist enemy."

AL DUSTOUR on the other hand, takes up the "onerous" task of the newly-formed National Consultative Council which King Hussein inaugurated Monday. It reviews what it calls the international plot woven against Arab nationalism in the name of the Balfour Declaration, and how the late King Abdullah, (grandfather of King Hussein) was able to keep Jordan out of that Declaration -- which pledged to establish a national home for the Jews in Palestine. The newspaper also recalls how King Abdullah managed to save the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 from "the claws of the Balfour Declaration."

But, the newspaper says, this does not mean that Zionism has forsaken its dream of grabbing these Arab areas. And for this reason, the Arabs are urged to mobilise their capabilities to confront Israel's ambitious designs.

## Leonardo Da Vinci

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## New JD 860-B Scraper from John Deere

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JD860-B's turbocharged, intercooled John Deere diesel engine delivers 225 net horsepower, with a 29 per cent torque rise. Power is applied through a 5-speed power shift transmission with automatic lockup and a 2-phase, single-stage torque converter.

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For more information on the JD860-B Scraper, contact your local John Deere construction equipment dealer.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### American Blues Concert

Famous American Blues singer, Memphis Slim, is performing tonight at the Haya Arts Centre at 7:30. Sponsored by the American Center. Mr. Slim will be accompanied on the drums by Michel Deniz.

### Geology Exhibit

An exhibition of types of rocks and minerals found in Jordan is on display at the University of Jordan library. The exhibition is sponsored by the Jordanian Geologists' Association and continues till the 26th.

### Arabic play

"The Cafe of the Wise", an Arabic play by Kamal Keilani, is now showing at the Department of Culture and Arts Theatre, Jabal Luweibdeh. The play will run daily at 7:00 p.m. until April 29.

### Archaeology Lecture

Mr. Roger Brechet will be giving a lecture on "Petra and Madaba in Salath" at the French Cultural Centre this evening at 5:00. The lecture will be followed by a photo exhibit on Petra which will be on display till May 4th.

### German Film

The Goethe Institute is showing a film tonight at 8:00 entitled "Die Missbrauchten Liebesbriefe," with subtitles in English.

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, 26, APRIL 1978

# Damas - Scene

Compiled for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of April 24-April 29)

**EXHIBITIONS**

"Architectural Traditions of Syria," an exhibition of 110 by Marwan Musilmani, Exhibition Hall, National Museum of Damascus. This photographic essay portrays Nabataean structures and tombs of Palmyra, Byzantine architecture of Umm Qais and the "dead" cities north of Aleppo, and Islamic madrasas and public buildings of Hama, Damascus and Aleppo. The exhibit is in conjunction with the 14th annual Congress of Architects which convened Saturday in Damascus. Except Tuesday, hours: 8 a.m.-1 p.m., 2-4 p.m., except Friday of 40 sculptures carved in olive wood by Susida Barros and Lotte Rommel, Meridien Hotel. Coffee and tea works in the medium of tempera by the master Syrian painter, N. Chaura, Al Shab' Gallery through April 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, April 26:** French editions of the works of Daudet, Couthiers-Villars and Masson through Friday, April 28, French Cultural Centre.

**FRIDAY, April 28:** Photo exhibition on the Azerbaijani Republic, Soviet Cultural Centre.

**LECTURES**

**TUESDAY, April 25:** "The Founding of the Arab Friendship Society," by a member of the Damascene society, and Bernd Scher, German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre, 8 p.m., Arabic.

**THURSDAY, April 27:** "The Cosmic Emotionalism of St. in Paris," by Prof. M. Joussey, Universite de Paris-Creteil, French Cultural Centre, 7:30 p.m. (in French).

**THEATRE**

**TUESDAY, April 25:** "The Night of the Slaves," a political drama by Mennad Aduan produced by and acted by students of the Theatre Arts Department, University of Damascus, at 8:30 p.m., Al-Hamra Theatre.

**TUESDAY, April 25-WEDNESDAY, April 26:** Traditional folk dances, songs and music by students of the Business and Economics College, University of Damascus, Handasa Theatre, Engineering Campus, 7:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, April 27-FRIDAY, April 28:** Performances of classical Arabic music, folk songs and dancing by students of the Agricultural College, University of Damascus, Handasa Engineering Campus, 7:30 p.m.



Untitled tempera painting by N. Chaura is a representative work among 30 in a one-man show through April 27 at Al Shab' Gallery. The artist is assistant dean of the Beaux Arts College, University of Damascus.

**FILMS**

**WEDNESDAY, April 26:** "Don't Shoot the Fire at No. 26," Soviet Cultural Centre 6 p.m. (in Russian)

**FRIDAY, April 28:** "The Red Tent: Part II," Soviet Cultural Centre, 6 p.m. (in Russian.)

# National News Roundup

## Princess Basma talks with M. Bitterlin

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — Her Highness Princess Basma received here today the visiting Secretary General of the Society for Franco-Arab Solidarity, Mr. Lucien Bitterlin. Talks centred on the aims of the newly created Queen Alia Fund for Social Work and other objects connected with child care. The Princess discussed the possibility of cultural cooperation between the Jordanian and French youth.

## Swimming in East Ghor Canal prohibited

**SOUTHERN SHUNEH, April 24 (JNA):** — The district governor of the northern Jordan Valley region today issued an order prohibiting swimming in the East Ghor because of an increase in drowning incidents there. Legal action will be taken against violators, he said.

## Seven quays planned for Aqaba harbour

**AQABA, April 24 (JNA):** — Seven quays are currently being constructed at Aqaba harbour, sources at Aqaba Port Department said today. Other projects include the construction of warehouses and cold stores, with a capacity of 500 tons, in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply, and another big cold store in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance. According to the source, railway lines will be running through storage areas to facilitate transport operations.

## Yarmouk to open language labs. soon

**IRBID, April 24 (JNA):** — Yarmouk University will soon open Arabic and English language laboratories, university President Dr. Adnan Badran announced here today. He told a meeting of members of administrative bodies of scientific societies at the university that among other projects to be undertaken soon is inauguration of Arabic and English language clubs where students can listen and participate in lectures and discussions which will help in their command of the two languages.

## Director of passports department resigns

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — The Cabinet Sunday approved the resignation of Khalidoun Al Dahir from the post of director of the passports department. A minister plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Al Duhah was appointed acting director.

## Ma'an symposium discusses implementation of development plans

**MA'AN, April 24 (JNA):** — The Under-secretary of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Ibrahim Al Utour has emphasised the need for the municipalities to implement the organisational plans for towns and villages on the understanding that these plans are the first step to developing and improving public services. Mr. Utour who opened a symposium of the municipalities of the governorate of Ma'an here, said any laxity or negligence in implementing the plans would have negative effects on the general appearance of the governorate. The Governor of Ma'an, Abed Khalaf Daoudiyeh and the Governor of the Aqaba district, Khaled Al Zu'bi spelled out their views on water and electricity projects and other municipal services in the governorate. The symposium will resume its meeting tomorrow.

## Coming & Going...

U.S. officials arrive to check on UNRWA situation

**AMMAN, April 24 (JT):** — A three man delegation from the United States including Mr. Richard McCall and Mr. George Ashworth, both members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Mr. Thomas McElroy, the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) will be arriving in Amman on Tuesday. Informed sources at the UNRWA offices here said today that the officials will visit refugee camps and UNRWA installations in order to check on UNRWA activities in Jordan especially financing and supplies. It is also hoped that they can meet officials at the Ministry of Reconstruction and Development. From here, the U.S. team will go to the West Bank on Thursday.

Ghazi Rakan to represent Jordan at Paris air meet

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — The director general of the Civil Aviation Department, Sharif Ghazi Rakan, will represent Jordan in the seventh symposium of the International Institute of Air Transport starting in Paris on May 23, a source at the Aviation Department said here Sunday. During the two-day meetings a number of subjects connected with aviation and air transport will be discussed.

Yarmouk rep. back from universities seminar in London

**IRBID, April 24 (JNA):** — The director of the department of development and planning at the Yarmouk University, Dr. Abdul Bari Durra, returned to Irbid today after attending a seminar in London on academic planning and universities development held under the auspices of the British Council. He said that during the twelve day seminar, which started on April 2, he presented a working paper on Yarmouk University's experience in planning. He also toured several scientific institutions.

Three-man delegation goes to Cairo

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — A three-man Jordanian delegation will be leaving Amman for Cairo to attend the meetings of the ninth Arab Conference on Social Defence due to be held on July 3, a source at the Prime Ministry said Sunday. The delegation will include Mr. Adib Halase, a Jordanian judge, Mr. Lutfi Al Katani, Director of the Juvenile Department and Col. Mohammad 'Ubeidat from the public security department.

Salah Jun'a will go to China, North Korea

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — Minister of Agriculture Salah Jun'a will be leaving here next Friday on a seven day visit to the People's Republic of China and North Korea to discuss possible agricultural cooperation between Jordan and the two countries.

Total volume traded, Monday, April 24 : JD 16,778

• 50 per cent of share capital paid.

• 75 per cent of share capital paid.

## By Friends of the Children Club Successful exhibition proves children's books are here to stay

By Breda Finegan  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN, April 24:** — The Friends of the Children Club has yet another success to add to its list. The Third Annual Children's Book Exhibition organized by the club in cooperation with the Arab Centre for Research and Production, has proved once more that books, especially children's books, are now a permanent feature of life in Jordan.

The exhibition, held at the King Hussein Club near First Circle, was opened on April 13 by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvat. It was originally planned to last 7 days but was extended by popular demand for two more days so that it finished on Saturday, April 22. Haitham Goussous, a member of the Friends of the Children Club told the Jordan Times today.

During the additional two days of the exhibition, books were sold to schools at a reduction of as much as 40 per cent," Mr. Goussous added.

"There was very little left over, and what was left has been sent back to bookshops because we already have most of the titles in our own library," he added.

Of the 40,000 books on exhibit, almost 30,000 were sold. The rest had been donated by various embassies in Amman and were reserved for inclusion in the club's library at the new centre which the club will be opening soon.

large, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which flew books in at no cost, and the Ministry of Culture and Youth and the British Council, each of which provided bookshelves.

Much encouraged by the reception of this latest book exhibition, the Friends of the Children Club is already planning next year's exhibition -- and who knows, next year could see the introduction of educational toys as well as books!

## Economic and Business News

Credit Fund agrees loans worth JD 487,300

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — The Municipal and Rural Credit Fund will grant loans totalling JD 487,300 to 34 municipalities and village councils around the country, a source at the ministry said Sunday. According to the source, the funds board of directors decided during a session held on Saturday to grant twelve municipal councils JD 292,500 and 22 village councils a total of JD 194,800.

Prophosphates production hits 1.77 million tons

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — Jordan's dry phosphates production last year amounted to 1,771,000 tons which translates into JD 18,926,000 in export earnings, an authoritative source at the Phosphate Mines Company said Sunday. The source added that machines and furnaces to the production of washed phosphates as part the Wadi Al Abyad (White Valley) project near the village of Al Hassa have already been installed. The source said the Wadi Al Abyad project, one of the most important schemes being implemented by the company to raise production capacity, is expected to hit the target of 1.5 million tons of the high quality phosphate. The Phosphate Mines Company started implementation of the project in mid-1976. Production is due to begin in mid-1979 after installation of the cranes and mills is finally completed. The estimated cost is round JD 10 million. After completing its expansion projects in Russeifa, Hassa and Wadi Arafa, the company's overall annual production is expected to reach about six million tons.

## May 1st public holiday

**AMMAN, April 24 (JNA):** — The prime minister issued a communiqué today announcing that all official departments and public institutions will be closed next Monday, May 1, on the occasion of Labour Day.

## NAME OF COMPANY

	PAR value	Volume traded	Opening price	Closing price
Jordan - Gulf Bank	JD 1.000	2,109	1.600	1.600
Jordan - Kuwait Bank	JD 1.000	2,125	2.500	2.700
Dar Aldawa Development & Investment Co.	JD 1.000	2,115	2.100	2.150
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5.000	114	7.400	7.600
Woollen Industries Co.	JD 5.000	362	8.000	7.250
Industrial, Commercial & Agricultural Co.	JD 1.000	499	2.650	2.500
General Mining Co.	JD 1.000	315	1.050	1.050
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1.000	1,900	0.900	0.950
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5.000	560	15.950	16.000
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1.000	3,130	1.100	1.100
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1.000	986	1.300	1.350
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10.000	602	15.350	15.450
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1.000	550	1.050	1.100
Jordan Spinning & Weaving Co.	JD 1.000	376	0.900	0.950
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	1,035	6.900	6.900

Total volume traded, Monday, April 24 : JD 16,778

• 50 per cent of share capital paid.

• 75 per cent of share capital paid.

## ARRIVALS :

7:50 Cairo (EA)  
8:00 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJ-GT)  
8:15 Beirut, London (BA)  
8:45 Beirut, MEA  
8:50 Bahrain, Riyadh (SDI)  
9:00 Berlin, Frankfurt  
10:10 Kuwait (KAC)  
11:30 Karachi, Abu Dhabi  
12:25 Kuala Lumpur (SDI)  
13:30 New York  
14:45 Paris  
15:00 Tokyo  
15:15 Amsterdam, Athens  
16:25 London  
17:45 Copenhagen, Vienna  
18:00 Madrid, Athens  
18:45 Paris  
19:00 Rome (SDI)  
20:00 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJ-GT)  
22:25 Paris  
23:15 London  
24:00 Beirut, MEA  
24:30 Beirut  
24:45 Cairo

DEPARTURES :

7:40 Beirut, London (BA)  
8:45 Beirut, MEA  
8:50 Bahrain, Riyadh (SDI)  
9:10 Berlin, Frankfurt  
10:30 Rome (SDI)  
11:30 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam  
12:30 Beirut, MEA  
13:35 Abu Dhabi, Karachi  
14:45 Paris  
15:25 Jeddah (SDI)  
16:00 Damascus, Beirut  
18:00 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJ-GT)  
19:00 Cairo  
20:30 Bahrain, Riyadh (SDI)  
21:00 Frankfurt  
21:45 Beirut, MEA  
22:30 Kuwait, Dhahran  
22:55 Doha, Manama (RJ-GF)

## CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41520
British Council	- 35147-5
French Cultural Centre	- 37009
Soviet Cultural Centre	- 44203
Hausa Arts Centre	- 61955
Khalid Theatre	- 339-594
National Museum	- 222-016
Soviet Cultural Centre	- 334-654
Spanish Cultural Centre	- 223-659
Urmia Art Gallery	- 334-603
Zahraya Public Library	- 111-318
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)</b>	
Ambulance (government)	Tel. 2511
Civil defence rescue	- 24281-4
Fire headquarters	- 22050
Fire, fire, police	- 18
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	- 36881-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	- 37111-3
Police headquarters	- 39141
Najdeh roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken)	- 24 hours a day for emergency help
Airport information (Alia)	- 21111, 37777
Jordan Television	- 62605
Radio, English Section	- 73111
Police	- 74125
<b>CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)</b>	
Al Hassa Theatre	Tel. 226-448
Al Shab'a Art Gallery	- 228-327
American Centre	- 552-302

# Bahrain opens first Mid-East solar energy exhibition, conference

BAHRAIN, April 24 (R). — A solar technology exhibition and conference, the first such combined event in the Middle East, were opened here today by Bahrain Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Sulman Al Khalifeh.

Firms from 16 countries were taking part in the exhibition while the conference was due to be attended by delegates from 20 countries, according to the organisers of the four-day event.

The theme of the conference is solar energy applications in the Middle East, examining aspects of solar technology in relation to their future employment in the state of the areas, they said.

Bahrain's Dr. Abdell Latif Kanoo told the Solar Energy Conference that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region were the most appropriate to take a lead in solar energy research.

The region received four times as much solar energy as the United States, he said. An acre of land in an average summer month in Britain receives from the sun an amount of heat equivalent to burning 80 tons of coal and "you know that Britain's summer is about as warm as our winter," he added.

Dr. Kanoo said that where-

as other nations had developed atomic energy, "our answer is to develop solar energy ... which is inherently safe and does not require strict local or international control."

He said the Gulf states must depend upon their own scientists to achieve a major breakthrough in solar energy but he said this did not rule out international cooperation.

## Gulf states approve anti-pollution pacts

KUWAIT, April 24 (R). — Eight Gulf states bordering a body of water which accommodates half of the world's oil trade today approved two anti-pollution treaties and an action plan for protecting the environment, a spokesman for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said here yesterday.

The spokesman was speaking after the ninth day of 10-day conference sponsored by UNEP and attended by the eight states — Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Defence allocations amounted to LE491 million (over \$165 million).

The spokesman said the two treaties which also pro-

vide for setting up of a regional organisation for the protection of the marine environment, were due to be signed at a formal ceremony here today.

Among the measures also approved yesterday were the establishment in Bahrain of a marine emergency mutual aid centre to coordinate the eight states' action against oil spills in the region and reinforce an emergency centre already operating from the Gulf island by oil companies in the region.

The spokesman said the eight states also decided to set up a \$6.3 million fund to finance the action plan.

### Lebanon announces deficit budget

BEIRUT, April 24 (R). — Lebanon today announced a budget containing a deficit of \$60 million Lebanese pounds (\$225 million).

Parliament approved a state budget of LE2,260 million (about \$770 million), compared with last year's budget of LE1,270 million (\$439 million).

Defence allocations amounted to LE491 million (over \$165 million).

## Saudi officials will oppose oil price rise throughout 1978, says U.S. report

WASHINGTON, April 24 (R). — Saudi Arabian energy officials have said they would continue to oppose any increases in oil prices during 1978, despite mounting pressures to raise prices at next June's OPEC meeting, according to a congressional report made public over the weekend.

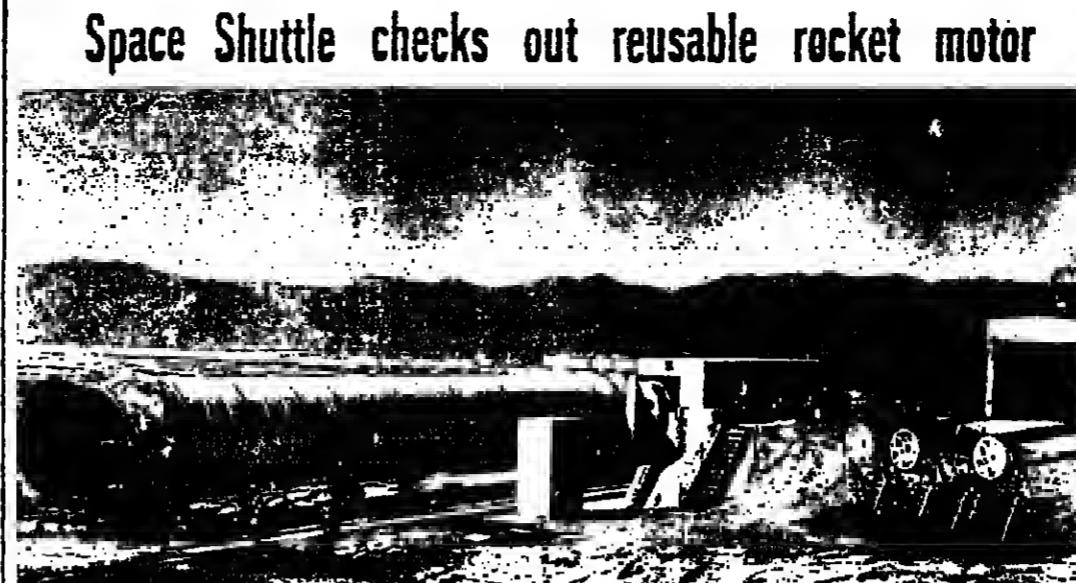
The report was written by a group of members of the Ho-

use of Representatives International Relations Committee who visited Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries in January.

Reporting on the trip, they said Saudi officials recognised the positive impact the oil price freeze OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) adopted in January,

1977, had on world economic stability and the organisation's growth.

"Saudi Arabian officials advised the study mission that they would continue to oppose any increase in the price of oil through 1978 despite mounting pressures within OPEC to increase prices at the next OPEC meeting in June, 1978," the report said.



A reusable Space Shuttle rocket motor is checked out and test fired near Promontory, Utah. Two of the solid-propellant power units will be used in each launching. Emptied before orbital altitude is attained, they will be parachuted back to earth for use again. A third, larger booster will carry the Shuttle into space and be jettisoned to burn up upon reentry. (IPS photo)



## Mozambique reshuffles government

MAPUTO, April 24 (R). — President Samora Machel of Mozambique has announced the first major government reshuffle since the country became independent nearly three years ago.

A presidential communiqué issued by the Mozambique Information Agency (AIM) yesterday said the reshuffle was necessary in order to strengthen the sections of the government in charge of the economy.

A statement read over Radio Mozambique Saturday night announced the formation of two new ministries — Internal and External Commerce.

The former Ministry of Industry and Commerce will be called Ministry of Industry and Energy, and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development will be called Ministry of the plan.

The former Minister of Labour, Mariano Matsinha, becomes Minister of the Interior, a post that was vacant since last year when the then Minister of the Interior, Armando Guebuza, was nominated vice-minister of defence.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-LONDON, (R). Following are the buying and selling rates for bank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling ....	1.8231/37	U.S. dollars
One dollar ....	2.0765/80	West German marks
	2.2225/35	Dutch guilders
	1.9560/85	Swiss francs
	32.35/38	Belgian francs
	4.6250/6300	French francs
	569.00/75	Italian lire
	228.00/20	Japanese yen
	4.6800/30	Swedish crowns
	5.4370/4400	Norwegian crowns
	5.6950/60	Danish crowns

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

Prices closed quietly firmer Monday, with government stocks leading equities higher in light buying interest and on lack of sellers, dealers said.

Long dated stocks gained up to 5/8 ahead of Thursday's long "tap" issue, while shorts firmed around 1/8. Leading equities firm'd several pence in featureless trading. At 15:00, the F.T. index was up 4.2 at 459.2.

Trading in options picked up to around Friday's level after a slow start, with interest centred on Marks and Grand Met. Dealers noted a press recommendation to switch from Grand Met warrants to Grand Met January 110 options as a factor behind some of the activity.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$168.40/oz.

## Heavy sales of Soviet gold again forecast

The Soviet Union is expected to be a major seller of gold again this year, with forecasts that it could release around 340 tons on to the market in a carefully controlled operation.

By Peter Lang

VIENNA, (WFS) — The Soviet Union, the world's second largest producer, is likely to sell large quantities of gold abroad again this year, as in 1976 and 1977, in order to finance its hard currency deficit — but the Russians are expected to do so with the skill and caution which they have displayed in this particular market over recent years.

In spite of the Soviet Union's traditional secrecy about its gold industry, it is estimated that Soviet sales last year amounted to approximately 335-340 tons, or about a fifth of total world sales (1,650 tons). This year's Soviet sales could well reach a similar volume to last year's. Estimates of Soviet sales in 1976 range from 300 to 330 tons.

### Soviet gold sales

According to East European banking sources, last year's Soviet sales were released gradually onto the market at times of rising prices, at an average price of \$150 per ounce, thus producing a massive total revenue of \$1,632 million.

These proceeds would seem, therefore, to have covered more than half of the Soviet Union's hard currency trading deficit for 1977, which may have been as low as \$2,500 million. By contrast, the hard currency deficit for 1976 probably totalled about \$5,000 million, and for 1975 \$6,300 million.

Although they do not directly reveal the extent of this hard currency deficit, the Soviet Union's own published statistics suggest that there has indeed been such a reduction. They show, in fact, that the Russian deficit on trade with the "industrial capitalist countries" fell to 1,112 million roubles (approx. \$1,600 million) last year, from 2,989 million roubles (approx. \$4,300 million) in 1976.

Nonetheless, total Soviet indebtedness to the West remains extremely high, at approximately \$16,000-17,000 million. The Soviet Union's reserves of (mined) gold, currently estimated by East European sources to total about 2,000 tons (worth about \$11,530 million on the basis of \$179.6 per ounce), provide an important form of collateral for these debts. Some Western experts suggest that reserves are nearer 3,000 tons.

Estimates of Soviet production last year range from 330 to 400 tons, about ten per cent of annual production is

consumed domestically, it seems, for industrial purposes, dentistry and jewellery. South African production totalled about 700 tons last year, according to provisional estimates.

During the 1950's and early 1960's, the Soviet Union seriously depleted its gold reserves through its sales to the West, but it seems to have built them up again by not selling any gold abroad at all in the West during the latter half of the 1960's. Since the early 1970's, reserves seem to have been maintained at approximately their present level. The annual rate of production over the next few years is expected to rise only slowly, perhaps by as much as five per cent a year but probably less.

### Largest reserves

The Soviet Union is thought to possess the world's largest reserves of unmined but potentially-exploitable gold, perhaps as much as between 125,000 and 150,000 tons. However, the country's efforts to boost output over recent years have been hampered by problems of technology, climate and distance.

The two most important gold producing areas are Mangan (Far East) and central Uzbekistan. Production at Mangan has been hindered by administrative inefficiency and labour indiscipline for some years, and the gold content of its deposits has been declining significantly. As a result, it has been overtaken by Uzbekistan as the country's most productive area.

On the more positive side, the Balkan-Amur Railway (BAM), scheduled to open in 1983, should speed up the development of the several smaller gold fields in the southeastern areas of the Soviet Union. Elsewhere, Zod (in Soviet Armenia), where a new mining complex was inaugurated in early 1976, could soon become an important gold producing area.

As a major producer and seller of gold, the Soviet Union is naturally anxious that high prices should prevail on the world market, hence its customary caution not to release the metal in quantities which might have a depressing effect. In its report for the winter quarter 1977-78, the Moscow Narodny Bank in London, while revealing no details of the Soviet Union's own activities, takes a decidedly optimistic view of future price trends. This outlook is shared by many Western dealers.

## AMMAN MARKETPLACE

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FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1978

## Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A good day to make the necessary changes you have been planning to put in effect which could give you more abundance in the future. Show that you are most thoughtful of others.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Be sure to keep promises you have made to others. Get involved in civic affairs.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use your intuition, which is accurate now, in handling an important business matter. Think along optimistic lines.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) A good day to sit down with your associates and state your views and come to a fine understanding. Be more encouraging.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to July 21) Get busy and finish any work you have left undone, especially that which means advancement for you. Be logical.

**LEO** (July 22 to Aug. 21) Let higher-ups be more aware of your talents and gain their support today. This can be a particularly fine day and evening for you.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find the best way to make those who live with you much happier. Show increased devotion to loved one. Safeguard your health.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with good friends in spare time and discuss the future. Avoid one who could cause you to spend too much money.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) An ideal day that can bring you more of the good things of life. Discuss important business matters with financial experts.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The planets are most favorable now for getting ahead in career matters. Take steps to improve relationships with others.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Begin the day right by studying a civic matter and handling it well. Strive to be more efficient in your work. Be wise.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are gregarious by nature and this is a good day to be with as many persons as you can. Be sure to spend your money carefully.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A particularly fine day to contact influential persons who can help you advance in your line of endeavor. Plan for the future.

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# Britons are back in force in Oman -- army personnel leave while contractors move in

By Stewart Derby  
of the Financial Times

LONDON, (F.T.) — Britain has been associated with Oman, a little known country on the Gulf, since Napoleonic times. But until comparatively recently the entire British population of the country of 700,000 people could have been, and often were assembled on the small terrace of the British Embassy in the old walled capital of Muscat. With their number totalling less than two hundred they would gather together on the terrace for the occasional embassy cocktail party.

### Long Enks

Britain's long links with Oman are well attested to by the elegant embassy which perches on a cliff overlooking the small harbour. Lining the walls of the main staircase are the fading photographs of former ambassadors, most of them from the old Sudan service. In the nineteenth century Oman was an important staging post for Britain's empire to the east. Even early in this decade, the RAF maintained a base on Masirah, a small island off Oman. Yet the total number of Britons in 1970 was probably less than 200.

In 1970 Sultan Said Ibn Taimur was deposed by his son Qaboos. Said had ruled for 38 years and had become increasingly eccentric. He forbade Western entertainments and even transistor radios; he denied education to all but

a very few. There were only ten kilometres of hard-surfaced roads in the entire country and very little electricity. The outside world was resolutely kept outside.

When Qaboos took over in 1970 he immediately threw the country into a rapid development effort. At the same time however there was a potentially fatal civil war in the country's eastern province of Dhofar. One of the few lapses the old Sultan had allowed himself in his increasing xenophobia was to permit Qaboos to go off for a short while and be educated at Britain's military academy of Sandhurst. It was perhaps only natural that when Qaboos took over it was the British he turned to for help in defeating the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFLO). A large number of British officers began pouring in from 1970 onwards, and commanded virtually every unit of the Sultan's forces with the exception of the Brigade of Iranians which the new Shah threw into the fray. By 1975 the insurgency was defeated; but at the end of last year there were still 625 British officers in Oman.

Rewards for freelancers

Soma 400 of these, including one lieutenant general and a couple of brigadiers, were on secondment, technically part of the British army. The advantage is that with Britain's role in the world having shrunk, there are only two other places, Northern Ireland

and West Germany, where an ambitious soldier can still get field command and foreign allowances. A little freelancing in Oman is profitable because it affords these "perks".

The real freelancers though are the 200 or so British "contract" officers. These are the men who have resigned their commissions in the British army and are technically mercenaries working for the Sultan's armed forces. The rewards are high. Major Bill Fox, formerly with the Special Air Services (SAS), the crack British army elite group, says that under his contract he earns around £120,000 a month, most of which he can save.

"There's nothing to spend on here except beer. The women are unapproachable." Oman is severe about women's behaviour and there is no mixing between Omani women and foreigners at any level except for servant-master relationships.

Apart from a generous monthly salary, there is a £6,000 annuity at the end of a three year contract. According to Bill Fox the danger is that during the spells of duty British soldiers become bored stiff with nothing to do. "And when the frequent leave spells

come around, they go off and blow all their savings having a spree somewhere like Bangkok."

### War is over

"The situation won't last for ever though" says Fox. "The war is over so it wouldn't surprise me if the army contracts started to dry up soon. Anybody with any sense should have stashed a little money away."

Another soldier, a full colonel, who looks like a cross between David Niven and Field Marshal Montgomery, agrees that only by going on contract in Oman has he been able to save enough for a good retirement house in the U.K. "My problem, old boy, is that I didn't buy a house in England years ago. Well, I never imagined the British army would shrink the way it has done."

The soldiers have been joined in the past few years by a large number of British civilians. When Sultan Qaboos started opening up the country to development, it was to a great extent British companies who swept in to pick up lucrative contracts. Seven years later, the Ruwi Mutrah complex in the capital, Muscat, still resembles a building site.

they are there to make a quick nest egg if they can.

Mike Freeman is a case in point. He says he likes to have a "blast" or a drink at the Ruwi hotel when he is in town. For a large part of the last year however he was in Rakhyut, where as a civil engineer for Tarmac he was building a school for the small isolated village.

Cut off, apart from weekly air drops of supplies, Mike, burly and suntanned, has only some thrills and canned beer for company in his caravan at night. He does not mind though, since in 18 months in Oman, he reckons he has saved £3,000. He had bought a large house in his native Somerset for £18,000 and he reckoned that the only way he could pay it off is by working abroad.

"Once I've paid for the use I can make a decent living in England. It's hard on the wife, but at the rate I'm saving I'll have paid for the whole thing in another year." He says that every six months he goes home with a huge bunch of five pound notes, Oman allows its foreign workers to remit money freely.

There are other places in the Gulf where foreigners are working and making money out of the oil wealth. Oman for peculiar historical reasons seems for the moment to have become like a British post colony, where a few Britons are, to the mutual advantage of the Omanis, making nest eggs for themselves.

-- Financial Times

News-Features

# Is Venezuela spending its oil riches wisely?

By Kevin Rafferty

LONDON, (F.T.) — Caracas by night is a pretty sight: Lights twinkle up the mountainside decorating the Venezuelan capital festively. Daylight reveals less to rejoice about: Shabby shacks cling like mountain goats to steep and crowded plots of land.

But since 1973 many of the tatty home-made shacks have housed sophisticated electronic gadgetry including television sets. Indeed the government has built blocks of flats to clear some of the slums, but many flats remain empty because people prefer the independence of their shacks and try to sublet the flats to somebody else.

The poor of Venezuela are rich compared to those of so-

me other oil-producing countries. In Jakarta, Indonesia, the bright glass towers belonging to Pertamina, the state oil company, reflect progress as gleaming American cars roar past three abreast. But at the back of the towers are people living in the meanest shanties without even elementary sanitation.

In Iran, in the big league of oil states a meaner side of life is seen in the under-employed stall-holders who sit puffing their cigarettes or sit and semi-idly on the pavement proffering lottery tickets.

Such are the glimpses of life in the cities. Beyond lie rural hinterlands where people have even fewer advantages and have to work on unresponsive land. Their lot is poverty.

In 1973 the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) boosted the price of oil. Higher prices gave the densely populated among them a big enough surplus to tackle their enormous problems of economic development. How have they managed with their new wealth?

### Good reputation

Venezuela has the best reputation of all the oil producers. It is easy to see why. Ve-

nezuela, and has devised a scheme to educate thousands of young students at universities abroad; it has kept defence spending to 2 per cent of the gross national product.

Nor has Venezuela forgotten its poorer neighbours. The government of President Carlos Andres Perez has lent large sums at soft terms to neighbouring countries.

Venezuela has naturally attracted businessmen in search of the oil wealth, but it has also become a haven for South Americans persecuted by the oppression of dictators. Most other Latin American countries have military rulers, but Venezuela has a democracy.

Mr. Alfonso is especially bitter about the role of government: "Venezuela works best when the government is sleeping," he says. Though the country is a democracy, he believes that what has been established in fact is a legal dictatorship by consent of the people. We will soon have another election. A new man will come in and he will be persuaded that he can perform instant miracles."

According to the official statistics, unemployment figures among Venezuela's 13 m. people are low enough to justify immigration of skilled workers from Colombia and other neighbouring countries. But the official statistics do not define unemployment nor measure underemployment. In the ranchos round Caracas there is work, even for the children whom the statistics say are in school. There is collection of "peas" (toll) to be made from the road users of the neighbourhood, money to be got from looking after cars parked in public places and trinkets to be sold to motorists trapped in the seemingly perpetual traffic jams round Caracas.

Moreover, the past few years have proved that money and development are not identical. In oil Venezuela has done well, nationalising and running the complex industry with a high degree of competence. In other sectors money has been available for development, but infrastructure, social organisation, planning and management capacity are all lacking in one degree or another.

Former Minister Juan Pablo

Perez Alfonso, the father of OPEC, argues that oil production should be cut right back in an effort to drive up the price to \$20 a barrel and to keep the oil in the ground until the Venezuelans have had time to learn what to do with it.

"We do not need half of the things we import," he argues, "we have 40,000 foreign contractors which are not being used, and we have a higher computer capacity than the rest of Latin America. The problem is that we are wishful thinkers. We must learn the value of work, and not look all the time for a magic way of doing things."

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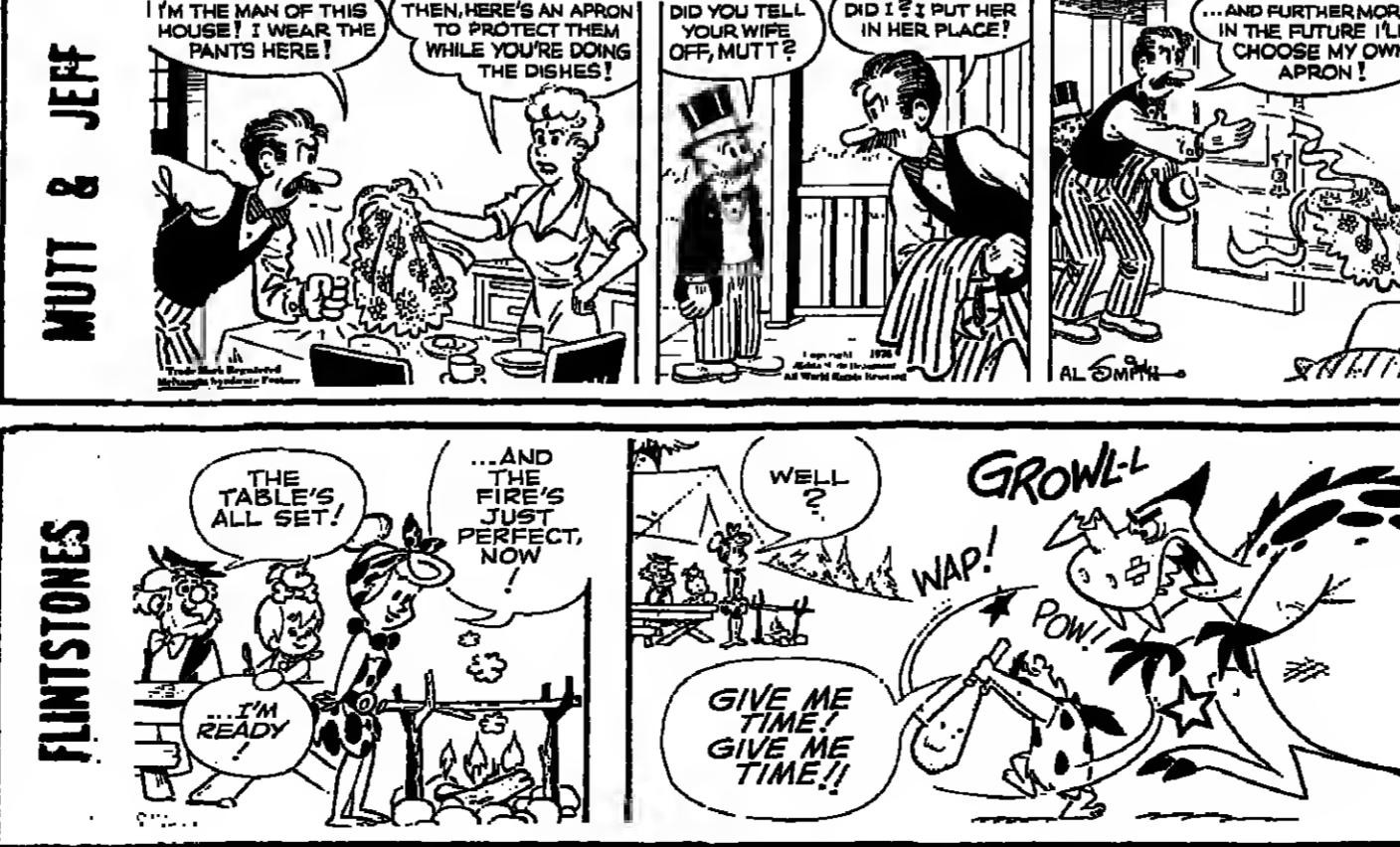
It is the best way the poor have of grabbing a share of the oil money.

-- Financial Times

News-Features

## THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



# D'Estaing denies reports that France tested neutron bomb

PARIS, April 24 (R). — A spokesman for French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing today denied reports that France had tested its own neutron bomb.

The mass circulation newspaper *France-Soir* last week published a story saying that a recent underground explosion at the Freycinet testing ground on Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific was a "full scale laboratory experiment" of a neutron bomb.

The story quoted a "senior military officer" as saying that France was still three or four years away from making deployable neutron weapons.

The statement by Andre Arnaud, a spokesman at the Elysee Palace, said "stories that appeared in certain press organs concerning experiments by France on a neutron bomb are not serious. No experiment of this kind has been held and none is planned."

French officials previously had refused to confirm, deny or make any comment on the reports in line with longstanding

French policy of refusing information of any kind on nuclear tests. Defense Minister Yves Bourges was reported to have told the Defense Committee at the National Assembly that the reports "should not be taken seriously."

Last week, officials said French scientists were working on plans to develop a neutron

warhead but that technological problems had not been mastered.

The neutron bomb, whose production in the United States was suspended last month by President Carter, can kill advancing troops with intense radiation, while tanks, other vehicles or buildings are left undamaged.

## Rightists riot in east Turkish town

ANKARA, April 24 (R). — About 8,000 rightwing militants rampaged through the Turkish town of Iğdır near the Soviet border yesterday, attacking property owned by supporters of Premier Bulent Ecevit's Republican People's Party (RPP), local officials said.

They said the rioters, who

had gathered for the funeral of a student killed last night, damaged about 50 business properties, including the local RPP headquarters and a left-wing teachers' union.

One middle-aged man was seriously injured in the rioting which was quelled by police and troops. A curfew was immediately imposed but no arrests were reported.

Rightwing militants rioted in the eastern town of Malatya last week following the parcel-bomb killing of the local mayor and three of his family.

## Survivors reach Seoul; Russia holds captain

SEOUL, April 24 (R). — The last of the surviving passengers of the South Korean Boeing 707 which crash-landed in Arctic Russia finally got to their destination today, but the captain and his navigator remained held by the Soviet Union.

A relief plane brought 47 people -- passengers and the 11 other crew -- to Seoul from Helsinki. It had earlier landed at Tokyo to leave Japan-bound passengers.

The last word on Captain Kim Chang-kuy and Navigator Lee Kun-soo was a statement by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow yesterday that it was seeking clarification from the Russians on why they were still detained.

The relief plane also brought to the Far East the bodies of one Japanese and one Korean passenger killed when a Soviet MiG fighter fired on the Boeing 707, as it strayed over Soviet Arctic air space on Thursday night on a trans-polar flight from Paris to Seoul.

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U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance tells a news conference in Washington Friday that the drive for peace in the Middle East is "much slowed down" but the United States will be patient and persevere. Monday Mr. Vance told America's European allies on his return from talks at the Kremlin that the Soviets are easing their opposition to U.S. sharing of Cruise missile technology. (AP photo)

## Top Ethiopian civilian, 12 official defect

MOGADISHU, April 24 (R).

— The top civilian in Ethiopia's southernmost Sidamo province has defected to a Somali guerrilla movement along with 12 other Ethiopian civilian and military officials, the Danab newspaper said here today.

Danab, organ of the Western Somaliland Liberation Front (WSLF) and the Somali Abu Liberation Front (SALF), said Mr. Wolde Emanuel surrendered to SALT guerrillas operating in southern Ethiopia, west of the Ogaden region where the WSLF is active.

It did not say when Mr. Wolde defected. He was described as chairman or governor of Sidamo.

The newspaper quoted him as saying in an interview that Ethiopia was now completely ruled by foreigners and the masses had no say in any form of decision-making.

He is the first high-ranking official reported to have defected from the Ethiopian side since the Ogaden War was ended by a powerful Soviet and Cuban-backed Ethiopian counter-offensive last month.

Meanwhile Ethiopia's ambassador in Peking today countered attacks on his government by Somal President Mohammad Siad Barre during a recent official visit here but described relations between Ethiopia and China as friendly.

In Bahrain, authoritative sources told Reuters reports that the island-state had revived the dispute were the result of a series of misunderstandings.

They said Bahraini military manoeuvres on Hawar last month led to rumours of a revival of the dispute. These were quickly reinforced when Qatar detained some Bahraini fishermen although they were released immediately after their identity was confirmed.

A visit to Saudi Arabia shortly afterwards by the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifeh, also led to reports that Bahrain was seeking Saudi support in the dispute, the Bahraini sources added.

Bahrain had no interest in seeking to revive the dispute as it sought to maintain the status quo and its sovereignty over Hawar and neighbouring waters, they added.

He told the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam "We did not escalate our border dispute with Qatar and do not seek such escalation ... We are optimistic and hope this problem will be settled as between brothers," he added.

Sheikh Mohammad was answering questions on reports in the Gulf of a revival of the dispute over the Bahrain-controlled island of Hawar near the Qatar mainland.

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